

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128946

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN/ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN CSCE

1. AMBASSADOR ORTONA OF ITALY SPOKE TO ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SPRINGSTEEN AFTERNOON JUNE 29 ON QUESTION PARTICIPATION BY ALGERIA AND TUNISIA IN PHASE I CSCE MEETING IN HELSINKI NEXT WEEK. HE REFERRED TO THE LETTER THAT MINTOFF HAD SUBMITTED TO THE FINNS (HELSINKI 1730 NOTAL) PROPOSING THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES BE INVITED BY CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PARTICIPATING STATES AND NOTED THAT THE GOI'S POSITION IS TO LET THESE PEOPLE TALK. HOWEVER, ROME HAS NOTED THE STRONG CONTRARY POSITION TAKEN BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH MR. DUCCI THIS WEEK AND THEY ARE NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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WONDERING WHAT TO DO SINCE THEY NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE THE

UNITED STATES. THEREFORE, THEY ARE SEEKING A WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM.

2. SPRINGSTEEN SAID THAT IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE PHASE I MEETING IN HELSINKI IS PRINCIPALLY A "KICK-OFF" SESSION AND TO SOME EXTENT CEREMONIAL IN NATURE. THEREFORE, WE DID NOT FEEL IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO PERMIT OTHER THAN THE 35 NATIONS INVITED TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE. TO DO SO,

PARTICULARLY IF IT INJECTED MIDDLE EAST ISSUES INTO THE MEETING, WOULD DETRACT FROM THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF PHASE I AND ITS EFFORTS TO CONCENTRATE ON PREPARATION FOR CONSIDERATION IN PHASE II OF SUBSTANTIVE MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN AREA. THEREFORE, AS HE KNEW, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WISH TO ADD ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS TO THE ROSTER.

3. SPRINGSTEEN ALSO NOTED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SHOULD ALGERIA AND TUNISIA BE INVITED TO SPEAK, THE ISRAELIS WOULD PROMPTLY SUBMIT A SIMILAR REQUEST. THIS WOULD CLEARLY INJECT MIDDLE EAST ISSUES INTO THE CONFERENCE. AS A RESULT THE PROSPECT OF THE ISRAELI REQUEST SHOULD HEIGHTEN RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO ANY POSITIVE ACTION ON THE MAGHREB REQUEST.

4. CONTINUING, SPRINGSTEEN SAID THAT WE ENVISAGED THIS ISSUE BEING RAISED BY MINTOFF AS A POINT OF ORDER IN THE FIRST WORKING SESSION (NOT THE INAUGURAL SESSION) ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON. A NUMBER OF OTHERS SHARE THE US POINT OF VIEW, AND WE EXPECT THAT SOME OTHER STATE WOULD OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST. AT THAT POINT THE CHAIRMAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, WOULD NOTE THE LACK OF A CONSENSUS AND THE REQUEST WOULD DIE.

5. AMBASSADOR ORTONA ASKED WHAT OUR VIEW WOULD BE ON ALLOWING THE TWO MAGHREB STATES TO SUBMIT WRITTEN MATERIAL TO THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IN LIEU OF ALLOWING THEM TO SPEAK. SPRINGSTEEN REPLIED THAT OUR EXPECTA-
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TION IS THAT SUCH MATERIAL MIGHT BE SUBMITTED DURING THE MORE INTENSIVE SUBSTANTIVE PHASE OF CSCE -- NAMELY, PHASE II. HOWEVER, IF PERMITTING SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL IN PHASE I WERE A NECESSARY STEP TO AVOID THIS ISSUE BECOMING AN IRRITANT IN PHASE I, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH AN APPROACH.

6. MR. SPRINGSTEEN SAID THAT THE TACTICS FOR HANDLING

THIS ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT ON MONDAY AND
TUESDAY MORNING IN HELSINKI IN THE LIGHT OF THE CLIMATE
AND VIEWS OF OTHERS AT THAT TIME. THEREFORE, HE SUGGESTED
THAT THE GOI DELEGATION SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. VEST
IN HELSINKI ON MONDAY.

ROGERS

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